

"DAD"

THE BIOGRAPHY OF ARCHIE DEVERE BUYS

By Joe Muir

The drummer stomped loudly into the dusty livery stable office, "When I asked for a rig and a driver I didn't mean a half pint kid."

Laben Hilton, owner of the livery stable looked up from his paper work. "That 'kid' will get you there and back in better shape than any man in town," said Hilton calmly turning back to his pile of bookkeeping.

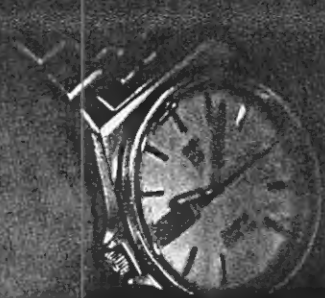
Hilton and the drummer were referring to Archie Devere Buys, age 15, then an employee of the Heber Livery Stable and just earning his spurs as a driver. The year was 1903.

Born in Buysville (now Daniels) at the south side of Heber Valley on January 6, 1888 to Edward and Celestia Bromely Buys, Archie Devere Buys was to become one of the best known and respected judges in the State of Utah. He was appointed city judge <sup>ON JAN. 1, 1933 BY H. CLAY CUMMINGS WHO WAS MAYOR OF HEBER CITY</sup> and in 1934 was elected Wasatch County judge, a position of trust he held until November 1964, a total of 34 years.

And the knowledge he gained in the care and sound management of horses was to afford a background of wisdom and understanding that caused him to serve the office of judge so well.

Heber City, Utah, a town famous for the nicknames dubbed on any local resident and particularly at an early age, lived up to it's reputation and gave Archie a nickname that endured.

He became "Dad" Buys at the age of 13 when he rustled and secured a job at the Heber livery Stable first owned by Jack Luke. His job was to be that of greasing harnesses, washing and polishing buggies and buckboards. Frank Carlisle



walked into the livery stable about the first day Archie went to work. He stopped abruptly when he noticed Archie busily scrubbing a buggy. "Well Dad, what are you doing here?"


Frank tells it later that the sight of this small lad (Archie was and still is of short height, 5 foot 7 inches tall) so earnestly shining up that buggy reminded him of a "busy man with responsibilities" and the word "Dad" just came out. It stuck. Archie became "Dad" from then on and anyone in Heber asking where Archie Buys lived would respond, "Oh, you mean Dad Buys."

And this eagerness to make good on his first job was to earn him the reputation of being dependable and even the Salt Lake drummer later ate his words and would always request "Dad" as the driver when he rented a rig to make his rounds of the stores in the Wasatch-Summit County areas.

Dad started working part time at the livery stable the spring of 1901 as a summer vacation job. By the spring of 1903 he was hired to work steady for \$35.00 per month. He had by then mastered all the chores at the stable : greasing, stable cleaning and helping repair rigs, carrying, washing, feeding and at last, the coveted job of driving.

" I suppose you could call me one of the first "taxi" drivers in Heber,"Dad said. " At least the youngest."

The livery stable served about the same purpose as a taxi or Hertz loan car agency. People lacking their own transportation could go to the livery stable and make arrangements to hire a horse or rig with or without a driver. With a driver furnished , a rig cost \$3.00 per day, a lot of money then.



Many salesmen, (called drummers in those days) from supply and manufacturing firms out of Salt Lake would hire rigs with a driver to take them around to the local towns to make their contacts and deliver goods to the stores.

After Dad had received his "Drivers License" from Labe Hilton, to handle and safely drive horses, he was often given this job to take salesmen on their rounds. He would many times meet the train or stage at Park City, pick up the drummers, load their sample cases and bring them on to Heber or take them on to Kamas or other outlying towns in Summit or Wasatch county. It was most often necessary to stay over night away from Heber in which the salesman would have to pay for the feed and housing of the horse as well as putting Dad up for the night in the local hotel.

"I had the pleasure of driving many people around who later became important in our Church and state affairs," Dad said. "Among them were such notables as George Albert Smith, then a salesman for Z.C.M.I.. Other Z.C.M.I. salesmen were Jim Arbuckle and William Owens.

If the drummers had good to deliver or a lot of sample cases, the livery stable would rent them a larger rig such as a buckboard or surrey pulled by two horses. This cost them \$6.00 per day including Dad's services as a driver. If the trip was shorter with less load, they took a buggy pulled by one horse.

"And on wintry trips, it wasn't considered 'too out of bounds' for the drummer to carry along a small bottle of whiskey in his suitcase, 'just a nip' helped keep them warm along the way," Dad recalled.



*knew*  
THE KID ~~KNOW~~ BEST

William Owens , the A.C.M.I. salesman who scoffed at Dad's ability to drive the team and take him to Kamas was later to thank him for saving his life.

It was a cold wintery day with at least a foot of snow on the ground when Dad and Owens left Heber for Kamas in a horse drawn sleigh. The weather turned colder as evening approached. Dad got out of the sleigh to walk beside the team to keep warm , especially to keep circulation in his feet. Dad urged Owens to get out of the sleigh and walk. Owens refused and stayed curled up in the sleigh. By the time they had arrived at Kamas, night had fallen and the temperature was ranging around zero. Dad tried to rouse Owens to get out and go in the hotel. But Owens was so nearly frozen Dad had to run and get help to pack him in the Burbridge Hotel. He then went after Dr. Wherritt who put Owens in a tub of cold water and by a combination of massaging his legs and arms and pouring whiskey down him saved his life.

Another interesting experience while driving was when Dad tipped a sleigh over on the old sidehill road going up to the summit to Park City, spilling his passengers and suitcases into the snow. "My reputation was on the line as a careful driver for a few days", Dad admitted.

Just before the U.S. Ute Indian Reservation was opened up for settlement by the whites, Dad used to drive surveying parties out to Ducheane, Whitetails, Roosevelt and other Basin towns.

The livery stable would load up buckboards and hook up two horses also broke to ride as well as pull a wagon. They would lead a third horse behind. When they got to the reservation area the surveying crews would ride the three horses out on the survey job. Each trip would last at least three weeks. Dad or any other driver and the guides had to stay right there as their job was tending camp and caring for the horses. Hi Jones and Daddy Mahoney served as guides from Heber. It was on those trips that Dad learned to cook flap-jacks, make sourdough, and burn bean beans. And it's rumored it was while on this job he learned the art of chewing tobacco, a habit much despised by ladies and coveted by men of those days.


#### FOSTER MOTHER

While pregnant with "Dad" his mother, Celestia, got kicked on the knee while milking a cow just a few days before he was born. The injury prevented his mother from being able to nurse this new new born baby. By co-incidence, Dave Thacker's mother (Mrs Charles Thacker) had a baby named Tessie just three days before Dad was born. She volunteered and Dad's sister Elizabeth would carry him to Thacker's three times daily for him to nurse. This program gave him the normal baby diet and he grew into a healthy lad. Sister Elizabeth practically took over the raising of Dad and looked after him for two or three years.

Dad's mother walked with the aid of crutches from then on.

#### BOYHOOD MEMORIES

Dad's father, Edward Buys, had begun work as a surveyor so moved his family from Buysville to Heber when Dad was a small lad. He bought a house at First North and First West, one block east of Main Street in Heber.



"I remember well that the house had a manhole in the ceiling in one room with a ladder fixed to climb up into the attic," Dad said. "Father kept jerked beef, deer and smoked bacon hanging from the rafters and we'd sneak up there and cut off a piece of jerky to chew on when we got hungry."

Most every family in town had a cow or two and Dad, along with other boys, had the cow herding chore. He started herding cows on his fifth birthday. Taking the cows out to the "north field", then a public domain, including taking several neighbors cows. Besides his fathers three he took care of 5 for Stake President Hatch and 2 for Judge Heat Hatch.

While on this cow herding tour of duty, Dad and his other boy friend cowherders developed a willow mud sling that was very accurate. They would cut a strong willow to the length of 5 to 6 feet and daub a bit of mud on the end, then bend the mud ball end back, make an arc of the willow, aim at an object, and let it flip. The mud ball would fly off at a fast rate. "We got to be experts at hitting cows with those mud balls," Dad said.

His bosom pal those days and on to manhood was Virgil Fraughton, who was to become county sherriff and work with Dad on court and legal matters.

In their early youth these two men would do many things together. One memory held dearly by Dad was the fun of team drawn sled parties held during the winter months.

"And the old Creamery out at the Point (north Heber) was a highlight in my cowherding young life," Dad related. "We used to go out there to get curd. We would pile it on homemade bread from home and top off with watercress from the mill pond. "Boy was it ever good."



#### DAD GETS A PONY

"A Mite Indian by the name of Bridger Jim used to come to our house from the Reservation and stay with us," Dad recalled. "He probably got acquainted with my Father through his surveying work. At any rate, he would visit and stay a few days with the Boys family much to the wonder and thrill of the young Boys kids."

"Bridger Jim gave me a mouse-colored pony," Dad said. "Boy, was I stuck on that horse ! I called him Mousy and he could out-run any kid's pony in town. I always rode him bareback cause I didn't have a saddle. And with many boys out in the north field herding cows the racing of ponies was a daily funfare."

#### FIRST KNEE PANTS

It was quite a treat in those days (still pioneering) to get any new clothes so Dad was a tickled little boy on his eighth birthday when his mother made and gave him his first knee pants. "Knee pants were really in stlye those days and I was the envy of my cowherding pals," Dad said.

#### SCHOOLING

Dad's schooling was brief. He went through the Seventh reader but quit during the eighth grade year. With a large family of brothers and sisters and a little income, Dad's summer and part-time job at the livery stable was important. So much so that as soon as he could prove himself as fit to hold a man's job he was dedicated to earning at least his own keep and helping out at home.

One of his teachers was Jennie King who later married John Rucker. Other teachers were Will Wootten, Addawal Wootten, and Miss Schutz (Shoots) who was his first grade teacher.

### COURTSHIP

Dad's courtship days were wrapped up in horses and buggies rather than automobiles. He began courting the girls while working at the livery stable.

"The mud would get two feet deep in the ruts in the winter along Midway lane," Dad said. "When I headed over to Midway to go dancing, the old horse had to really 'expand horsepower' to get there." And in balmy summer days the horses got extra use on weekends as Dad went out to picnics, dances and Sunday rides.

Dancing was his favorite sport. The dancing those days included waltzing, quadrilles, and other square dances and polkas. The orchestra was the Epperson boys, Piano, cornet and drums.

"If you had no money you took a dozen eggs, pound of butter or a cake to the dance for the ticket to get in. Or the cash ticket was .50¢ per couple," Dad said. The girls would make up a box lunch and take to the dance. The boys then would pick out a lunch and buy it for .15¢ and the girl who made the lunch would have to become his partner for the evening. During intermission they would eat it together.

Dad was typical of most young men. He looked over the field to make sure of capturing the heart of the best girl in the valley. He had dates with many Midway girls including Wordell Ross, Ora Galli, Anne Beuhler, Floss Wootton, Lizzie Watkins, Ida Haueter, Nell Provost, Ida Sultzer, Lena Epperson and Cory Street.

But Florence Edna Bonner's good looks, red hair, and winning smile won him over. She was born at Midway May 6, 1888.

Either Midway was blessed with more girls than Heber or their beauty attracted because most of Dad's dating days were spent over in Midway.



### DAD GETS MARRIED

Dad and Florence Edna Bonner were married August 23, 1907 and set up housekeeping in Heber. Labe Hilton was so fond of Dad that he raised his wages to \$50 per month after the wedding.

Dad worked at the livery stable until 1909. His first child, Bonner, had arrived and his home responsibilities were growing. He looked around and found a job with higher pay at the A.Hatch & Co. store. His new job included some use of horses in delivering coal, baled hay, wheat to and flour from the grist mill, and making home deliveries of groceries and other staples. His salary was now \$60 per month. When the Snake Creek Tunnel was driven Dad used to take supplies from the A.Hatch & Co. store by wagon to the mouth of the tunnel. He made two trips per week. Those trips occurred from 1910 through 1911.

### NEXT JOB

The family was really growing now. Bonner, June, and Virginia were born and Dad had to really dig to pay the bills.

About that time a group of Heber men, including John Anderson, Will Turner, and Billie Burns, formed a company called the Heber Exchange and offered Dad a chance to buy some stock in the new venture, and go to work for the store. So Dad bought 20 shares at \$10. per share, a total of \$200.. "This took all my savings, but it looked like a big deal," Dad said. "Now I was a man around town with stock in a company."

### SOUGHT FORTUNE IN EUREKA

with a growing family and the need for more income, Dad went to Eureka, Utah, at the encouragement of his brother Joe Buys, who assured him that good jobs were to be had at the mines there. He did get a job at the Iron Blossom Mine No. 2 for \$2.75 per day.

He was at the mines six months when Floss got sick (Heber nickname for all Florence's). The Doctor advised getting out of Eureka so Dad quit and the family moved back to Heber.

He again went to work for the Heber Exchange selling machinery and farm equipment. He would set up binders and other equipment as it arrived from the factory. The line was mostly McCormick-Seering. Dad sold hay rakes, mowing machines, and binders. He sold the first combine harvester in the valley to John Ritchie at Charleston.

During the winter months Dad would work in the store selling groceries, clothing, shoes, etc.

He then switched over and worked for the Heber Mercantile. This store was across the street and was the main competition for the Exchange. "The store manager Joseph Rasband offered me more money," Dad said.

Dad's stock in the Exchange did not pay off too well. During the depression (1929-1934) the stock went down to \$5. per share. Dad held on and finally sold it for \$12.50 per share in 1952 to Harold Smith. "The yearly dividend was a box of candy," Dad said.

Dad worked in the Merc. until 1923 when he went into business for himself and bought the Heber confectionary and renamed it the "Buys Confectionary and Grocery Store". By then all eight children were born and well on their way to school. He moved the family into the apartment over the store, "and we fit like peas in a pod," Dad would say.

Here Homer, June, and Virginia did their share of helping Dad mind the store and it became a popular place for the younger set to gather and eat banana splits, ice cream sodas, nut sundies, and malted milks.

#### TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME

Dad and Mother Buys loved to go to the ball games. Heber always had a very good ball team in the 1920's and 30's. Dad loved to kibitz the umpires but he was no match for Brig Witt and Ab Giles, the nations two most notorious tormentors of umpires and opposing pitchers.

#### VIRGINIA IN ACCIDENT

On May 3, 1929, Virginia was injured in an accident at Morgan. Her right leg had to be amputated.

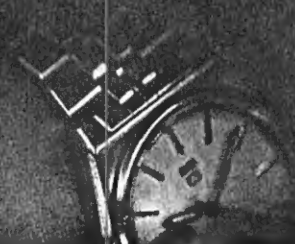
Soon after Virginia came home from the hospital Dad moved the family back to their old home at 430 West First South. This has been the home to this date, (Dec. 1964). Also at that time Dad sold the store and went to work for the South-East Furniture Company selling and repairing Maytag washing machines. He stayed with this job for four years and built up a wide following for Maytags. Here again Dad's complete honesty in making repairs and dependability on service brought trust that endured through his judgeship.

#### COUNT CASES

Judge Buys had handled hundreds of cases from petty theft to two murders. He made himself known as a just, yet severe, believer in observing the law. One example was a burglary case. A man was caught (quite important around town) in the A. Hatch & Co. store. In spite of local pressure, Judge Buys made the man post a \$1,000 bond or stay in jail. He could'nt post bond so was boarded free by the county for a few days. A State District Judge came to hear the case after Judge Buys court bound him over. The man went to jail for his crime.

Judge Buys has heard perhaps more fish and game violation cases than any other judge in the State of Utah.





"I've had so many cases the Fish and Game men about lived at my house during the hunting and fishing season," Dad said.

"I've handled many violations such as no license, failure to tag a deer, fishing in closed waters, and so on," Judge Days recalled. "And the excuses and stories these violators would manufacture would make the best jokes for Bob Hope on TV," Dad said. "They would come to my home and plead and argue and cry until it would drive my family half crazy.

One matter of principle the Judge would never waver on was the matter of the Sheriff or Fish and Game wardens attempting to advise or insist on the degree of punishment he should administer. Dad would immediately set the law enforcement official straight with words such as these: "Now listen, Mr. Officer, I am the Judge. You bring them in and make the complaint. I'll decide if they are guilty and what their punishment shall be, not you,".

Dad also served as County Coroner during his judgeship and received \$3. for each case plus \$1.50 for expenses.

#### OTHER JOBS

During the spring months Dad worked as a field man for the WoodsGross Canning Co. in supervising the growing of peas with the farmers contracting to grow them for the company. This job would last only two months but it gave him an extra income during the late 1920's and early 30's. A total of around 300 acres of green peas would be grown annually for canning in Wasatch county.

#### FIREMAN

In 1923 Dad joined the voluntary fire department of Heber. This was a job he dearly loved and respected. He served until 1960. He was assistant fire chief for four years and chief for two years during this time.

And when the fire siren began to wail these volunteers would drop whatever they were doing and take off on the run. A book could be written on the experiences of this group.

#### CHURCH SERVICE

Dad was active in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. He served in many capacities including MIA 1st. Councilor, Sunday School Superintendent, and Aaronic Priesthood Supervisor. He was ordained a High Priest. He was Committee Chairman of the Boy Scouts Program when it was first organized in Wasatch County.

Although he was not married in the Temple, after <sup>SAT</sup>the children were ~~all~~ born, he and Floss took them all to the Salt Lake Temple on March 27, 1918 and had a marriage and sealings performed for time and all eternity. "I decided the whole family were well worth keeping forever," Dad quipped.

#### AN OUTSTANDING FAMILY

Dad and Florence Buys have earned a rich reward both in heaven and in Heber Community by bringing into this world and raising 8 very fine children: Sonner, July 11, 1908; June Nov. 29, 1909; Virginia, Oct. 20, 1911; Dorothy, Aug. 11, 1913; Russell, Aug. 22, 1915; Rex, Sept. 1, 1918; Dale Jan. 14, 1921; and Maxine, March 15, 1923.

They have all married and Dad now proudly claims 37 grandchildren and 34 great-grand children.

Even though his family of eight have scattered to the four winds they all keep in close touch with their beloved Dad and the family are still very close knit with love and affection for each other.

#### FLORENCE PASSES AWAY

Florence Edna Bonner Buys certainly did her part in the marriage. The rearing of 8 children was no easy task no matter what the wealth or circumstance. She managed to instill the good housekeeping qualities of cleanliness and love for home in her daughters and the characteristics so necessary in young men of love and respect for their parents and the desire to improve themselves. The boys grew into fine hard working responsible citizens.

Illness beset Florence through many years of her life. Diabetes and heart trouble finally brought an end to her mortal life and she passed away on February 22, 1947. She was buried in the Heber Cemetery in a family plot.

#### DAD REMIRIES

It was lonesome with all the children married and gone. Dad could not find himself moving from one child to the other aimlessly. And he had the judge responsibilities plus other part time jobs such as assisting in the county assessment work -- and he loved the fire department. He wanted to maintain his home and place in the community. So it was natural that he should remarry and have a companion for his later years in life.

On August 18, 1949, Dad married Grace Anderson Crook. Grace had been Wasatch County Treasurer and had become well acquainted with Dad through his judge responsibilities with the county. Her husband John Floyd Crook has passed away, so Dad and Grace both found a very comfortable need for each other.

Grace has done a wonderful job in taking care of Dad. She has insisted on his eating good meals at the right time. She has kept a neat, tidy home and has served as a real companion to Dad. She has understood the rigorous pressures heaped on public officials



having been one herself, and knows how to intervene or become a buffer to shield Dad from persistent people that can wear down his health. Dad's family all are warm in their praise of their stepmother for her watchful and loving care she has given Dad.

#### TRAGEDY STRIKES

Dad and the entire family were shocked and deeply grieved by the accidental death of Rex.

Rex had married Laverne Stone Feb. 14, 1940. They had two boys, Harvey and Gary and one daughter, Patricia. They were then living in Kearns, Utah.

It was the holiday season and they had just left their home to go to a Christmas party when they were in an accident with a truck and Rex was killed instantly. This was on Dec. 21, 1954. He was buried in the Heber Cemetery.

#### MEMORIES AND THE FUTURE

Dad retired as Wasatch County and Heber City Judge in November, 1964. "It's going to be a pleasure to be completely free of job responsibilities," Dad said. "I'm going to miss those daily trips to the Courthouse. But maybe I can go up town and get the mail and pass the time of day with my friends and feel just as good."

Dad and Grace plan to visit their families when health, weather, and conditions permit. "Our children are scattered in Oregon, California, Arizona, and Washington," Dad said, "So we can pick the climate we want every time we make a visit."

When asked what he would differently if he had his life to live over Dad's face broke into a big grin and he said, "I'd just make a better choice of son-in-law's for my daughters."